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AUGUST 2003

Volume 38 Number 8 ISSN: 0197-3088 Price Two Dollars

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THE SIEGE COINS OF 1828 AND 1829 IN EL SALVADOR AND GUATEMALA

J. Roberto Jovel, San Salvador, El Salvador

BACKGROUND

The Kingdom of Guatemala – which comprised present-day Central America – achieved independence from Spain on 15 September 1821. After a short-lived annexation to the Mexican Empire of Agustín de Iturbide in 1822 and 1823, a Constitutional Assembly was convened to define the political future of Central America. On 1 July 1823, this Assembly decreed that the five Provinces that had comprised the extinct Kingdom would form the “*United Provinces of Central America*”.¹ At that time, however, there existed opposing views as to what the institutionality of the new Nation should be. On one side, the powerful Guatemalan economic and Conservative groups wished for a strong, centralized government that would control the Provinces. On the other side, the Provinces were led by liberal governments that wished to have a significant degree of autonomy with regard to the previous General Captaincy, Guatemala.

The Liberal Party was the dominant force in the 1823 National Assembly and was able to impose on the other parties the idea of a Federal type of internal organization for the new nation, which gave rise to the name of the “*Central American Federation*”. On 21 April 1825 the Federal Congress elected Salvadoran General Manuel José Arce – who was a member of the Liberal Party – as the Federation’s first president. Arce took office shortly thereafter. Mariano Beltránena, a Guatemalan that belonged to the Conservative Party, was elected as Vice President.²

On 19 March 1824, the National Assembly passed a law to define the characteristics of the coins for the Central American Federation³. Coins were subsequently minted at Guatemala, San José (Costa Rica) and Tegucigalpa (Honduras)⁴, and they circulated widely in the whole Federal Republic. However, their limited production – especially in regard to fractional coinage – did not enable to meet the domestic demand for specie. As a result, coins minted during the Spanish Colony – whether round milled coins or cobs – circulated along the new Federal coins.

THE CENTRAL AMERICAN WAR IN THE PERIOD 1827 TO 1829

Necessity coins were minted by El Salvador and Guatemala during the Central American war that lasted from 1827 through 1829⁵. These coins were of the *obsidional* type; they were minted in cities that were under siege by enemy forces. These siege coins are of special relevance because, first, there were not many cases of cities under siege in the Central American area and, second, because they were the only coins of this type minted in the numismatic history of the Central American region.

The Central American war under reference began as the result of a change of government in the State of Guatemala. The legitimate Liberal government therein was replaced by one led by the Conservative Party. In addition, the Liberal authorities of El Salvador and Honduras feared that such a change might lead to the return to the centralized government that prevailed in pre-Independence times and had its seat in Guatemala City. Furthermore, some States considered that their financial contributions towards the functioning of the Federal Government were a heavy burden to their already ailing internal finances. This situation was usually critical when having to meet the unexpected financial needs for reconstruction following the natural disasters that frequently occurred in the Federal Republic.

The political situation in the State of Guatemala and the Seat of the Federal Government

In October 1824 Juan Barrundia, a Liberal party member, took office as Chief of State in Guatemala, after being elected by the State Constitutional Assembly⁶.

At that time the seat of the Federal Government as well as that of the State of Guatemala were located in Guatemala City. Such closeness resulted in differences between Federal President Arce and the Guatemala Chief of State. Both politicians had very strong personalities and they accused each other of interfering in their respective areas of jurisdiction⁷. In addition Barrundia always tried to show independence in relation to the Federal Government. Confrontations among the two leaders were frequent⁸.

These confrontations were aggravated in 1826 through a crisis of military origin, when Colonel Nicolas Raoul – who later on would play an outstanding role next to General Francisco Morazan – revolted against President Arce. Barrundia made the mistake of siding with and providing military support to Raoul. Reacting swiftly, Arce took the Guatemala State garrison by surprise, and deposed and jailed Barrundia⁹. The Guatemalan Deputy Chief of State, Cirilo Flores, took office instead and wisely decided to move the Government's seat to the City of Quetzaltenango. Flores was assassinated a month later by a mob during a revolt organized by the Conservatives and by the Catholic Church *Curia*. The State Assembly and its Council of Representatives were then dismantled. A new assembly was convened promptly and Mariano Aycinena was elected as the new Chief of State; Mariano Cordova was appointed as Deputy Chief of State. Both individuals were aristocrats and members of the Conservative Party. They took office on 1 March 1827.

Reactions in Neighboring States and the Beginning of War

The rising of the Conservative Party to the top levels of government in Guatemala produced unrest in the Federal Republic, especially in El Salvador. Mariano Prado, the Deputy Chief of State in El Salvador – who was acting as Chief of State due to illness of his superior – strongly condemned the actions of the Federal President, and requested cooperation from the other States in order to restore the law in the Federal Republic. He also called for the holding of a special Congress in the City of

Ahuachapan to find a solution to the matter. However, the other States did not comply with Prado's request and the proposed Congress never met.

Finding himself alone, Prado organized an army to invade Guatemala and restore legality. President Arce, commanding the Federal Army, defeated the Salvadorians at Arrazola in March 1827. Following Arce's victory, Aycinena consolidated his power and decided to try and expand the Conservative Party's influence in the entire Federation¹⁰.

The Campaign in Honduras

While Aycinena was making preparations to invade El Salvador, an internal revolt developed in Honduras against its Chief of State Dionisio Herrera, who shared Mariano Prado's ideals. The Federal Army took advantage of said situation, rapidly invading Honduran territory and seizing its capital city, Comayagua, on 10 May 1827. General elections were called for to elect new State authorities¹¹.

However, Francisco Morazán – who was at that time a Senator for the Liberal Party in the Honduras Congress – was able to escape from the brief siege of Comayagua and fled to neighboring Nicaragua. He rounded up some Nicaraguans and Salvadorian soldiers and returned to Honduras, where he defeated the Federal Army at the battle of La Trinidad in November of same year. He returned to Comayagua and was promptly elected Chief of State¹². The defeat of the Federal Army by Morazan was to be of significance in the future of the Central American war. Morazan emerged as a great military strategist and a renowned Liberal politician.

The campaign in El Salvador and Siege of San Salvador

Concurrently with the actions in Honduras, General Arce invaded Salvadorian territory with a sizable army. Finding no initial resistance he advanced rapidly towards Apopa, a small town located a few kilometers North of San Salvador, the Capital city. Not seeing any reaction from the Salvadorians, Arce ordered an attack against San Salvador. However, he was promptly defeated by the Salvadorian army and withdrew to Guatemala in May¹³.

In mid-July, with a better organized and equipped army, Arce invaded El Salvador for the second time. He took the border cities of Ahuachapan and Santa Ana without much resistance. However, when he was preparing his advance towards San Salvador, he was called back to Guatemala by Aycinena. Arce's recall to Guatemala was prompted by the distrust that the Guatemalan Conservative leaders had developed after his initial defeat by the Salvadorian army¹⁴. Following Arce's return to Guatemala, the Salvadorians attacked the Federal army at Santa Ana, where a fierce battle developed that inflicted heavy casualties on both sides. This battle led to the withdrawal of the Federal army to Guatemala.

Aycinena decided to undertake a third campaign against El Salvador, with a view to avenge the previous defeats and in order to depose the Salvadorian Government

authorities and to install a new government that would be more amenable to Guatemalan interests. The combined Federal and Guatemalan armies invaded El Salvador for the third time and, on 1 March 1828, defeated the Salvadorian army at Chalchuapa. After a rapid advance the combined armies surrounded San Salvador on 12 March. The siege of San Salvador lasted for seven months, during which the Salvadorian army bravely resisted the invaders.

In May the position of the Salvadorians was becoming desperate since the enemy had taken several towns located in the outskirts of San Salvador and were strengthening the siege. On 18 May the Salvadoran Assembly took two decisions: to borrow jewelry and Silverware from the Roman Catholic Church and use them to strike Provisional coins to pay soldiers' wages¹⁵, and to request the assistance from Morazan, who had been recently elected Chief of State in neighboring Honduras.

These Provisional coins were struck – contrary to what previous researchers believed – in a provisional mint established in San Salvador itself, as demonstrated by original documentation found in recent years by the Author.¹⁶ Silver coins were minted in denominations of $\frac{1}{4}$, 2 and 4 Reales. These are in fact the first necessity coins of the obsidional (siege) type ever produced in Central American territory. (See Figure 1).

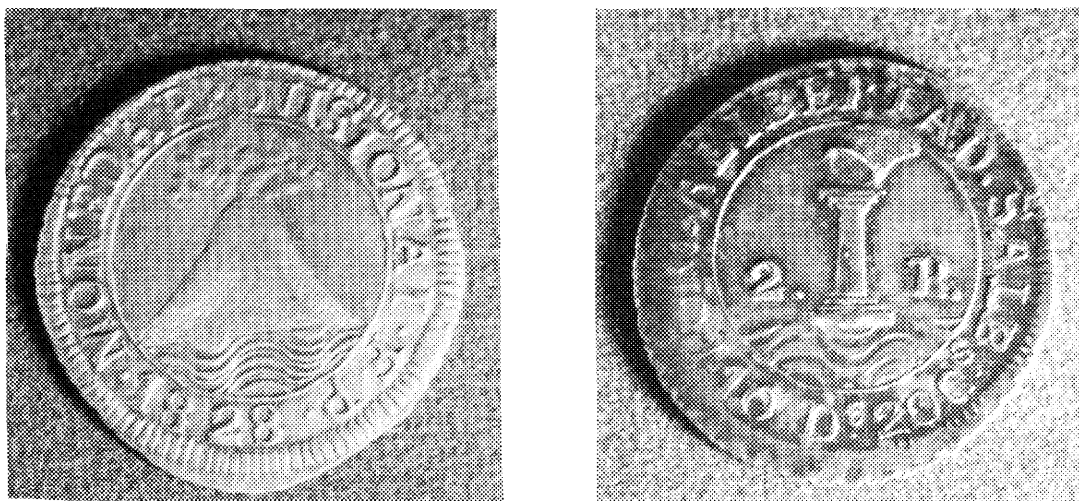


Figure 1. A 2-Real Salvadoran Provisional coin – enlarged to 200 per cent – minted during the siege of San Salvador in 1828.

The El Salvador Provisional coins were minted with the following characteristics:

Denomination	Average diameter, millimeters	Average weight, grams
$\frac{1}{4}$ Real	12.1	0.7
2 Reales	26.5	4.7
4 Reales	31.5	9.4

The Silver fineness of these coins was the same as that of the Central American Federation coins; i.e. 0.903. However, their weight was lower which fact resulted in a

lower fine Silver content and intrinsic value. They were demonetized in 1836 because the neighboring States did not accept them at their nominal value. It is to be noted that El Salvador struck coins with the denomination of 4 Reales, which was never minted by the Federation¹⁷.

Morazan responded promptly to the Salvadorian's assistance request. He deposited his high office and marched with his Honduran army to the Western part of El Salvador. That move made the combined Federal and Guatemalan Army commander to mobilize part of his forces, leaving San Salvador surrounded by a limited number of his men. Morazan defeated the Federals at Gualcho and the Salvadorians counter-attacked the Guatemalan forces which surrendered. The Federal and Guatemalan forces then withdrew from Salvadorian territory in October 1828.

Morazan and his victorious army entered San Salvador. He and Chief Prado issued an ultimatum to the Federal and Guatemalan Governments, demanding that the latter recall one of the officials elected back in 1826 in order to promptly call and oversee elections and restore legality. The ultimatum was rejected.

The Campaign and Siege of Guatemala

Despite having rejected the ultimatum, internal cohesion within the Guatemalan Government was weakening. An internal uprising occurred at Quetzaltenango in November of same year, and was suppressed by the army. The City of Antigua Guatemala expressed its support to Morazan in January 1829, and the Guatemalan Army had to quash this initiative.¹⁸

Morazan and Prado then put together the so-called *Allied Army to Protect the Law* that, with a force of 2000 men, began its march towards Guatemala, taking the town of Chiquimula in December. By 5 February 1829, Morazan and his men had established an effective siege of Guatemala City. Heavy fighting occurred in and around the Capital City in early April. Both armies fought bravely, but Morazan's prevailed. Aycinena unconditionally capitulated on 12 April. Morazan occupied the city the following day with a promise to respect the Federal and State authorities. However, on 19 April he ordered that those officials that had participated in the government's decisions taken between 1826 and 1829 be placed under arrest. These officials were jailed until mid-July, when they were sent to exile.

Later on Morazan reinstated those officials that had been deposed by Arce back in 1826. The State Legislative body and the Federal Congress, which had both been dissolved in 1826, were reinstated in June. The most senior Senator, Jose Francisco Barrundia, was designated as interim President of the Central American Federation; and Mariano Prado was chosen as Vice President¹⁹.

While in 1827 the limited financial resources of the Federal Government were used to pay for war expenditures, the Aycinena Government put up the funding for the next two years. The war lasted longer than originally envisaged – due to the Salvadorian resistance in San Salvador and the entry of Morazan into the war – and expenditures increased significantly. The Guatemalan State Assembly imposed a forced loan of

60,000 Pesos in August 1827. An additional loan of 40,000 Pesos was imposed at the end of the same month²⁰. At least part of the first loan funds were sent to the army that was attacking San Salvador, and were intercepted by Salvadorian troops during a brief battle at Quezaltepeque. This negatively affected the morale of the Guatemalan troops surrounding San Salvador²¹, and must have affected Aycinena and the Guatemala population as well.

The aforementioned resources were not sufficient. In January 1828 the Guatemala State Assembly decided to request the Roman Catholic Church to donate Silver jewelry and sacred ornaments “... *that are not truly essential, due to the present state of the Nation in its war against San Salvador (...)*”²². These Silver artifacts were delivered to the Guatemala Mint for melting and assaying. In this regard, on 12 January 1828, the Mint Director stated that²³ “*The resulting Silver lacks sufficient fineness to meet our regular coinage standards. Since under the present circumstances it does not seem possible that Silver from Tegucigalpa or Alotepeque may reach us, it seems necessary for it to be refined so that the State Government may have coins opportunely at its disposal*”.

The Guatemalan Treasury had become exhausted after the third invasion of El Salvador. The Guatemala Mint did not have funds to acquire metals to strike coins, since these funds had been diverted in 1827 to pay for State expenditures²⁴. In addition, when Morazan’s armies surrounded the Capital City in February 1829, no metals to strike coins were able to reach the Mint. Funds to pay soldiers’ wages and for the most basic market transactions became very scarce. Facing this difficult situation – which was very similar to the one the Salvadorians faced the previous year – Aycinena’s Government was forced again to request the Roman Catholic Church to lend more jewelry to be used to strike provisional coins with which to pay the most essential expenditures.

In a communication dated 15 February 1829, the Mint Director described in detail the characteristics of the Provisional coinage, as follows:²⁵

“The Provisional coins that the Supreme Government of the State has ordered to be struck shall have the same size and weight of the regular Reales. The only difference shall be in the obverse, where it shall bear the inscription ESTADO DE GUATEMALA 1829; and in the reverse, there shall be the inscription MONEDA PROVISIONAL and the Assayer’s initial. These inscriptions shall include all letters and no abbreviations. The Silver fineness for these coins shall be of nine Dineros”.

As may be noted – and contrary to what previous researchers believed – Silver fineness for these coins was only 0.750, instead of the higher standard (0.903) used in the regular coinage of the Federation.

The following figure – enlarged to 200 per cent – shows the obverse and reverse of the Provisional coins struck during the siege of Guatemala City. The initial M belongs to the Assayer, duties which were discharged on that occasion by the Mint Director, Benito Muñoz, himself²⁶.

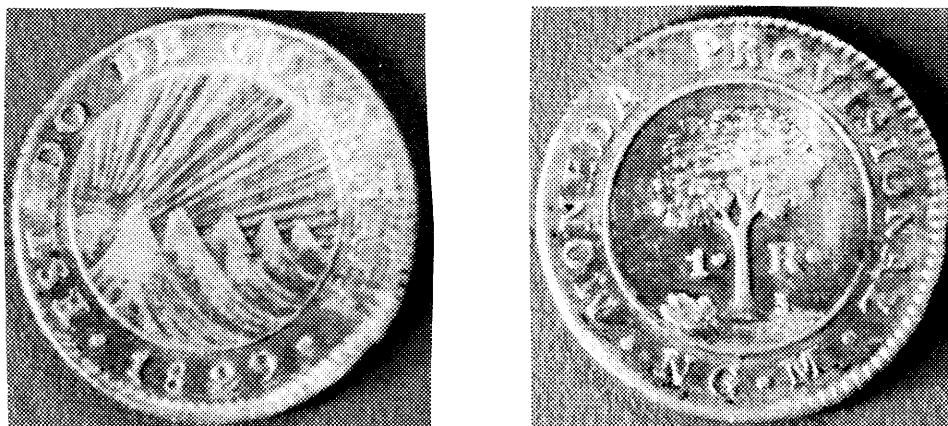


Figure 2. Image – enlarged to 200 per cent – of the 1 Real Provisional coin minted at Guatemala City in 1829.

The 1829 Provisional coins of Guatemala had the following characteristics:

Denomination	Average diameter, millimeters	Average weight, grams
1 Real	20.0	4.0

It is to be highlighted that the weight of the Provisional coin is higher than the standard set by the Federation – i.e. 4.0 against 3.4 grams, respectively – and did not comply with what Benito Muñoz indicated in his communication above. It seems to be the result of Muñoz efforts to maintain the intrinsic value of the equivalent Federal coins, since the combination of 4.0 grams and 0.750 Silver fineness yields a fine Silver weight that meets the Federation's requirements. In that respect, the Guatemala Provisional issue was a better one than the Salvadorian issues of 1828, since the latter did not meet the Federation's standards of fine Silver weight.

It should also be noted that some authors had stated in the past that this Provisional coin had been struck by Morazan after taking Guatemala City. However, the documentary evidence now available points out to the contrary; i.e., that the 1829 Provisional coins were minted by the Aycinena Government during the siege of Guatemala City, and that Morazan – promptly after taking control of the City – gave orders to the Mint to stop striking the coins and to demonetize them²⁷.

CONCLUSIONS

The Salvadorian Provisional issues of 1828 and the 1829 Guatemala Provisional issue are in fact necessity coins of the *obsidional* or siege type, since they were struck while enemy armies surrounded the respective Capital cities. They are of special relevance to Central American numismatic history since there is no evidence that other issues of the same type were ever made.

In previous times, some numismatic researchers and authors had erroneously stated that the 1828 Salvadorian Provisional issues had been minted at Guatemala, and that

Morazan had ordered the striking of the Guatemalan Provisional coins in 1829. These matters have been settled with the documentary evidence included in this paper.

The two issues of Provisional coins share some common characteristics that deserve special mention. First, Silver jewelry and sacred ornaments from Roman Catholic Church were used for their production. Second, both issues did not fully comply with the standards set forth by the Central American Federation; the Salvadorian coin did not meet weight standards and the Guatemala issues did not meet Silver fineness requirements.

There are some differences between the two issues that also deserve special mention. The Salvadorian coins were issued in three denominations (1/4, 2 and 8 Reales), and their availability (with the exception of the 1/4 and 4 Reales) is relatively frequent, even in better condition. The Guatemalan coins were minted in the 1 Real denomination only and were promptly demonetized, which fact may explain their scarcity.

Both Provisional issues are highlights of the numismatic history of Central America, and their commercial value is relatively high.

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¹ *Decree of Independence* issued on 1 July 1823 by the National Constitutional Assembly. In: Menendez, Isidro, *Recopilación de leyes del Salvador*, Guatemala, 1855.

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³ Prober, Kurt, *Historia Numismática de Guatemala*, pages 161 and 162, Second edition, Banco de Guatemala, Guatemala City, 1973.

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⁸ Lujan-Muñoz, Jorge, *Gobierno de Manuel Jose Arce*, in Asociación de Amigos del Pais, *Historia General de Guatemala, Tomo IV, Desde la República Federal hasta 1898*, CDROM Issue, Guatemala City, 1999.

⁹ Marure, Op. Cit., page 35; and Levene, Op. Cit., page 208.

¹⁰ Levene, Op. Cit., pages 216 to 218.

¹¹ Marure, Op. Cit., page 41.

¹² Levene, Op. Cit., pages 220 and 221.

¹³ Marure, Op. Cit., page 42.

¹⁴ Lujan-Muñoz, Op. Cit., states that the defeat of Arce by the Salvadorians increased the distrust of the Guatemalan Conservatives and that Aycinena was then entrusted with the reorganization of the army.

¹⁵ *Decreto del 18 de mayo de 1828 mediante el que se manda tomar en calidad de préstamo las alhajas de oro y plata de la iglesia del Estado*, in *Decretos y ordenes de la Asamblea y el Gobierno del Estado*, Febrero de 1827 a Enero de 1829, Imprenta Nacional, San Salvador.

¹⁶ Jovel (I), Op. Cit., pages 39 to 46.

¹⁷ The machinery available at the Provisional Mint in San Salvador seems not to have been able to properly strike the 4 Reales coins, since existing pieces have very weak relief. It would seem that a decision was adopted not to continue striking these coins and to concentrate on the 2 Reales denomination that, in any case, was the most demanded.

¹⁸ De Sneider, Siang, *Interludio Conservador y triunfo liberal*, en Asociación de Amigos del Pais, Op. Cit.

¹⁹ De Sneider, Op. Cit.

²⁰ These decrees are included in *Folio 382, File 79643, Legajo 3485, Signatura B 10.8*, Archivo General de Centro America, Guatemala City.

²¹ Montufar, Lorenzo, *Reseña histórica de Centroamérica*, pages 49 and 50, Guatemala City, 1878.

²² The appropriate decree may be found in *Page 3, File 79643, Legajo 3485, Signatura B 10.8*, Archivo General de Centro America, Guatemala City.

²³ See *Carta del Fiel de la Casa de Moneda al Secretario General del Gobierno del Estado de Guatemala*, in *Folio 14, File 79643, Legajo 3485, Signatura B 10.8*, Archivo General de Centro America, Guatemala City.

²⁴ Solis, Ignacio, *Memorias de la Casa de Moneda de Guatemala y del desarrollo económico del país*, Volume III-A, page 621, Ministry of Finance, Guatemala City, 1978.

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²⁶ Rubio-Santos, Manuel, *Grabadores de Guatemala*, page 138, Banco de Guatemala, Guatemala City, 1975.

²⁷ See *Comunicacion del Ministro de Hacienda y Secretario General del Gobierno Supremo del Estado al Fiel de la Casa de Moneda, del 16 de abril de 1829*, in *File 43407, Legajo 1396, Signatura B 94*, Archivo General de Centro America, Guatemala City.

Dime Quotes and other money – The purchasing power of a dime the year I was born, from an ocean trip around the world. *Globegadder's Diary*, Ralph Parlette, Parlette-Padget Company, Chicago. 1927.

Havana, Cuba – I have traveled somewhat, but this is the first time I've found a fountain of free beer in a park, with the public invited to drink its fill. I surmise it is a pretty good publicity stunt, for a famous brewery stands beside the park, and has its product all over Cuba. The brewery and its free beer get talked about everywhere, but as the free beer place is perhaps ten miles out in the suburbs, the thirsty ones are likely to buy it nearer, when it's on every corner for a *dime*.

(Submitted by Roger deWardt Lane)

OF SAINTS AND ANGELS

Bob Forrest, Manchester, England, NI #2382

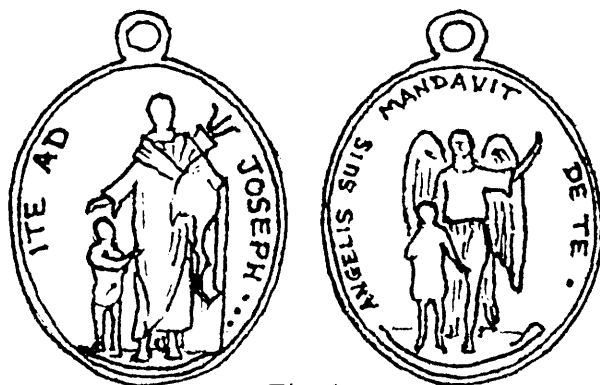


Fig. 1

In a previous essay (1) I discussed the 19th century bronze medal shown again here, actual size, as fig.1. It had turned up in Coruña, in north-west Spain, and was bought as a medal which had formerly found a use as an amulet for protecting cattle from the machinations of evil spirits! I never did discover why the good people of Galicia regarded such a medal as particularly efficacious in the protection of cattle – even the locals didn't know how it had come about – but I have managed to uncover more information about its neat paralleling of, on the obverse, the figure of St. Joseph, his arm held protectively around the Infant Jesus, and, on the reverse, a guardian angel, its arm held protectively around an infant child. It was this paralleling which led me in my previous essay to wonder about possible connections between St. Joseph and guardian angels (for the pairing is such a common one on religious medals), and to wonder if St. Joseph had ever been regarded as “King of the Angels” in the same way as the Virgin Mary had been regarded as their “Queen”.

In respect of this last, St. Joseph has indeed been portrayed as King of the Angels. Thus Cardinal Herbert Vaughan, the Bishop of Salford, in his little book *Who is St. Joseph?* (1887), quotes the Blessed Leonard “On St. Joseph” as follows:

“As Mary is the Queen of Saints and of Angels, so by law Joseph is the King of Saints and of Angels. If you often honour the Virgin by the title, Queen of Saints, Queen of Angels, pray for us – so ought you in the same way to honour Joseph by saying – King of Saints, King of Angels, pray for us.” (p.33)(2)

As regards our medal's paralleled images of St. Joseph protecting the Infant Jesus and the guardian angel protecting a small child, this too has theological precedents, for as Carthage says:

“The office of the angels is the guardianship of men, but Joseph was entrusted with a more excellent charge – the care, not of a mere man, but of Christ the Lord who was both God and man, and also of His holy Mother.”(3)

As regards the legends of fig.1, both of these are from the Vulgate Bible. The obverse legend ITE AD JOSEPH (= Go to Joseph) is from Gen.41.55, and in its original context refers to the Old Testament Joseph, he of the coat of many colours. Its use on the medal in relation to the New Testament Joseph arises from supposed parallels between the lives of the two Josephs – both Josephs had fathers called Jacob, for example (Gen.30.1ff & Matt.1.16) – so that the Old Testament Joseph is commonly regarded, by biblical commentators keen on such things, as prefiguring the Joseph of the New (4). Thus Cardinal Vaughan writes:

“What was truly said of the first Joseph, as to his future, and as to his goodness, his chastity, his patience, his wisdom, his influence with the king, his power over the people, and his love for his brethren, is verified much more perfectly even to this day, in the second JOSEPH.

Of old it was said to the needy and suffering people in the kingdom of Egypt: “Go to Joseph, and do all that he shall say to you.” (Gen.xli.)

The same is now said by the Sovereign Pontiff to all needy and suffering people in the kingdom of the Church – “Go to JOSEPH.”

If you labour for your bread; if you have a family to support; if you endure privation and suffering; if your heart is searched by trials at home; if you are assailed by some importunate temptation; if your faith is sorely tested, and your hope seems lost in darkness and disappointment; if you have yet to learn to love and serve Jesus and Mary, as you ought, JOSEPH, the Head of the House, the Husband of Mary, the nursing Father of Jesus – JOSEPH is your model, your teacher, and your father. Truly, in all things, S. JOSEPH is the people’s friend.” (5)

The reverse legend of fig.1, ANGELIS SUIS MANDAVIT DE TE (= He has given his angels charge over thee) comes originally from the Vulgate Psalm 90.11 (= 91.11 in the Authorised Version,) The full verse and the following one read thus:

“For he hath given his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. In their hands they shall bear thee up; lest thou dash thy foot against a stone.”

An adaptation of this appears in Matt.4.6, and its relevance to the guardian angel medal of fig.1 is obvious.

Though the medal of fig.1 turned up in Spain, it seems likely that it was actually made in Italy, for I have another bronze medal, of exactly the same size and fabric, with virtually identical obverse and reverse figures – i.e. quite clearly from the same workshop – but with legends in Italian, thus: obverse – S.GIUSEPPE P.P.N. (= St. Joseph, pray for us); reverse – ANGELO CUSTODE GUIDATAMI (= guardian angel, guide me.

Medals which pair a St. Joseph obverse with a guardian angel reverse are very common. Another Italian example in bronze, shown 1½ times actual size in fig.2,



Fig. 2

Fig. 3

has, on the obverse, the half-length figure of St. Joseph holding the Infant Jesus in his arms, with legend S. GIUSEPPE PREGATE PER NOI (= St. Joseph pray for us.) The reverse shows an angel leading a child by the hand, with legend S. ANGELO GUARDIANO PREGATE PER NOI (= Holy guardian angel pray for us.) A rather nice French example in bronze is shown 1½ times actual size in fig.3. Here the bust of the saint is accompanied by a lily, symbolic of his purity (the lily features less clearly in fig.2), and a hatchet or axe, symbolic of his earthly role as a carpenter (6). The legend is S.JOSEPH MODELE DE PURETE PRIEZ POUR NOUS (= St. Joseph, Model of Purity, pray for us.) The reverse is a standard image of a child with its guardian angel, and with legend O.S.ANGE GARDIEN SOYEZ MON GUIDE (= O holy guardian angel, be my guide.) Another French medal in silvered brass is very similar to fig.3 except that its obverse lacks the axe symbol, and its legend refers to Joseph as PATRON DE L'EGLISE UNIV. (= Patron of the Universal Church)(7), rather than MODELE DE PURETE. Another French type in white metal has a reverse like fig.3 and an obverse like fig.2, but with the legend ITE AD JOSEPH. Yet another, in bronze, has obverse and reverse types much as in fig.3, but with legends S.JOSEPH P.P.N. on the obverse and ALLONS AU CIEL (= Let us go to heaven) on the reverse. There are many variations, then, but the basic pairing of St. Joseph (with or without the Infant Jesus) with the guardian angel and child is common to all. Similar medals are to be found with legends in English (e.g. St. JOSEPH MODEL OF PURITY P.F.U. / St. GUARDIAN ANGEL BE MY GUIDE; in bronze) and Portuguese (e.g. S.JOSE / ANJO DA GUARDA; in bronze) as well as French and Italian.

However, it is to be noted that the guardian angel and child reverse is sometimes paired with saints other than St. Joseph, though the pairing with St. Joseph does seem to be far and away the most common, presumably because of the links and parallels between Joseph and the angels outlined earlier. Most notably I have a medal of exactly the same size and fabric as fig.1 (ie from the same workshop), with an identical reverse, inclusive of legend, but with an obverse depicting the half length figure of St. Aloysius Gonzaga holding a large crucifix. This pairing too, is found on French and English medals. In addition I have specimens of French medals pairing the guardian angel and child reverse with obverses depicting St. Blaise (aluminium), St. John the Baptist (aluminium), St. Michael the Archangel (bronze), and Notre Dame de Bon Secours (Our Lady of Good Help; silvered bronze). A rather nice old German medal in bronze pairs the guardian angel and child with St. Antony of Padua.

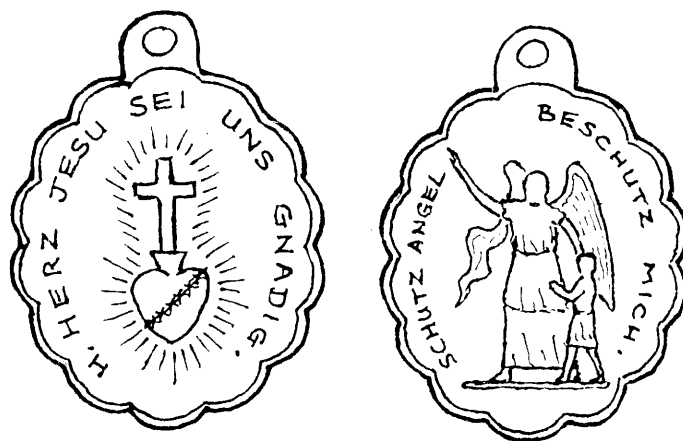


Fig. 4

A more unusual pairing from Germany is shown 1½ times actual size in fig.4. This bronze medal has an obverse depicting the Sacred Heart of Jesus, with legend H. HERZ JESU SEI UNS GNADIG (= Sacred Heart of Jesus have mercy on us), and a reverse depicting our now familiar guardian angel and child, with legend SCHUTZ ANGEL BESCHUTZ MICH (= guardian angel protect me.)

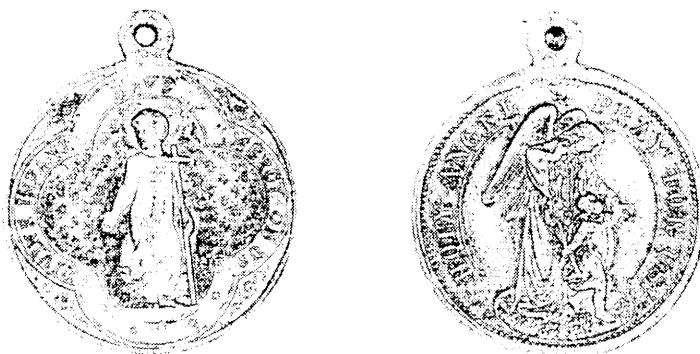


Fig. 5

Another unusual pairing, this time English, is shown actual size in fig.5. This aluminium medal has an obverse depicting the Infant Jesus, with legend DIVINE INFANT HAVE MERCY ON US, and a reverse, with legend HOLY ANGEL PRAY FOR US, which by now needs no explanation. An old French counterpart of this medal, in bronze, has a legendless obverse depicting the Infant Jesus holding an orb in his left hand, with his right hand raised in blessing, and a reverse much like fig.2, but with legend SNT. ANGE GARDIEN SOYEZ MON GUIDE. A Spanish example pairing St. Barbara with a guardian angel I have described elsewhere (*NI Bulletin*, February 2000, p.52-3).

It is interesting to speculate what might have led to some of these other pairings. St. Blaise, for example, was commonly held to offer protection against throat troubles (8), so he would indeed have been a good choice for helping a guardian angel protect your child. St. Antony of Padua, of course, has always been regarded as the saint to turn to for help in locating lost objects. On the other hand, a Sacred Heart obverse might represent an appeal for help of a more subtle, spiritual nature, in the form of divine clemency ("please make allowances for me"), rather than an earthly appeal for physical protection, or help in finding something that has been lost. But then again, it is always possible that a particular pairing represents nothing more than a protective angel coupled with one's "favourite saint", with no more connection between them

than one of personal caprice. We must beware of seeing “reasons” where none were ever intended.



Fig. 6



Fig. 7

Some guardian angel medals, though, are just that, and bear no additional image of a saint etc. A Spanish example of this type was given in the essay cited in note 1 (see fig. 2 of that article), it being a medallic equivalent of the Spanish devotional prints which I cannot resist reproducing here as figs. 6 & 7. Mercifully the medals, with less scope for minor details like “butterflies of innocence”, tend to be less nauseatingly sentimental than these prints. Indeed at times the medals can be artistically very pleasing. A particularly fine example, in silver, is shown actual size in fig. 8. It bears no legend to indicate its country of origin, but it surfaced in Spain and so is presumably Spanish. Note the fine six-winged seraph on the reverse, the type of angelic being that bestowed the stigmata on St. Francis of Assisi. The seraph is shown graphically in many a painting of that dramatic event, most notably in the fresco by Giotto in the Basilica of St. Francis at Assisi.

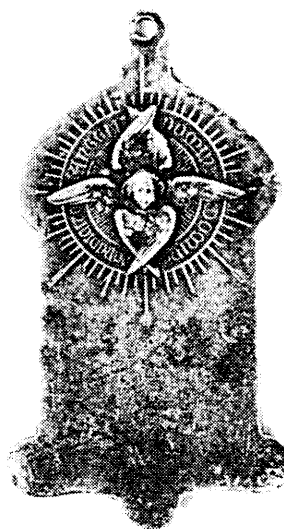


Fig. 8

All the medals referred to in this article appear to be at least 50 years old, and in some cases (the bronze medals), somewhat older, of later 19th century date. In the latter half of the 20th century guardian angels – and their medals – seemed rather to go out of fashion. But of late the angels have started to make something of a come-back, with considerable media coverage of folk who claim actually to have seen angels, and, most particularly for us here, to have seen their own guardian angels in action (9).

There is nothing new in any of this. Various saints have had encounters with angels. Thus, in addition to St. Francis of Assisi, just mentioned, St. Joan of Arc, St. Thomas Aquinas, St. Catherine of Siena and St. Teresa of Avila all had encounters of one sort or another with angels (10). As regards guardian angels specifically, St. Francisca is said to have had two of them, one of which was continually visible to her; St. Paul the Simple is said to have been able to see the guardian angels of all those around him; and St. Vincent Ferrer (sometimes spelt Ferrier) is said to have had numerous angelic encounters, including one with the guardian angel of the city of Barcelona (11). In respect of St. Vincent, Brewer writes:

“Angels often visited St. Vincent Ferrier. On one occasion he spoke to the guardian angel of Barcelona. He was about to enter the city gates, when he observed a young man environed in light sitting near the gates. He had a naked sword in one hand, and a buckler in the other. St. Vincent asked him who he was, and what he did in that place, thus armed as he was. The angel made answer, “I am the guardian angel of Barcelona. This city is under my protection.” In the sermon which he preached at night, he told the congregation of this vision, felicitated them on their good fortune, and exhorted them to render themselves worthy of such an honour. An enormous statue of the angel was subsequently erected on the spot, and stands there still.”



Fig. 9

The aluminium medal shown 1½ times actual size in fig. 9 has St. Vincent Ferrer (c.1350-1419) on its obverse. He is shown, book in hand, and pointing heavenward to the open end of a trumpet which peeps out from the clouds. Above his head is a tongue of flame, and, most importantly for us here, he is shown with the wings of an angel. So what is all this about ?

In brief, all these things are symbols associated with St. Vincent's extraordinary preaching record. The tongue of flame is easy to explain. A regular symbol of his (12), it is indicative of his ability to speak in tongues (13a), the symbol arising from Acts 2.3-4.

The trumpet and wings require a little more explanation. In 1398 St. Vincent had a vision (14) in which Christ himself appeared, accompanied by a great host of angels, and instructed him to preach throughout kingdoms and cities on the imminent approach of the Last Judgement. This became St. Vincent's mission, and he undertook it with a vengeance, preaching far and wide in England, France, Germany, Spain and Italy. He became famous for his fiery sermons on "sin, death, God's judgements, hell and eternity"(13b), sermons delivered to such effect that he had to have intervals during which the congregation could compose themselves! It is said that everywhere he preached he was "received as an angel from heaven" (13c), and indeed his Christ-given mission led him to claim for himself the title "the Angel of the Judgement" (as in the prophecy of St. John in Rev.14.6-7)(14), a claim which some might regard as immodest, but which apparently met with Papal approval. It is this title, then, rather than his visions of angels, which explains the wings on the medal and in paintings. As for the trumpet – another regular symbol of his (12) – it is the trumpet that will sound at the Last Judgement, and which is mentioned in 1 Cor.15.52:"the trumpet shall sound and the dead shall be raised." (15)

As regards the book featured on the medal, it features in paintings too, where it is sometimes shown open at Rev.14.6-7 (12), the verses which are the aforementioned prophecy of St. John's regarding the preaching angel who will announce the imminence of the Last Judgement – the Angel of the Judgement.

The reverse of fig. 9, incidentally, depicts St. Hyacinth of Cracow (d.1257), known as the Apostle of the North on account of his prolific evangelising in Poland, Prussia, the Baltic Countries, and Russia. The medal apparently depicts his miraculous escape from the Mongol sack of Kiev in 1240, on which occasion he is said to have walked upon the waters of the River Dnieper, protected from all harm by carrying a ciborium (a chalice-shaped vessel with a lid, for holding the Blessed Sacrament) in one hand and a statue of the Virgin Mary in the other (16a). Why he didn't perform the even greater miracle of staying put and saving the city by turning back the Mongol hordes is not clear – after all, on one occasion he *is* supposed to have held the Mongols at bay simply by holding up a monstrance (17) (a type of which is what he seems to be carrying on the medal, actually.) But there it is: he escaped and the city didn't – you can just about see the flames on the medal, flaring up from the buildings behind and to the left of the saint.

Incidentally, for readers who are somewhat puzzled as to who would want to wear a medal depicting two such relatively obscure saints as St. Vincent Ferrer and St. Hyacinth of Cracow, the answer may well be a preacher associated with the Dominican Order. Both saints were Dominicans and, as indicated above, both were renowned for their energetic evangelising. The medal itself turned up in Paris, by the way, which just happens to be where a chunk of St. Hyacinth is buried, in the Dominican church there (16b). (Most of him is buried in Cracow. St. Vincent is buried at Vannes in Brittany.)

But getting back to St. Vincent Ferrer's encounter with the guardian angel of Barcelona, I cannot resist quoting Brewer's sardonic comment on this angel's effectiveness, or rather, severe lack of it:

"This guardian angel has not succeeded in guarding the city, which has always been taken whenever it has been attacked. Thus in 1640 it was taken by the French, who continued masters of the city till 1652. In 1697 it was again taken by the French, but restored at the peace of Ryswick. In 1705 the governor was obliged to surrender up the town to the English and Dutch. In 1713 the town, after a siege of sixty-two days was taken by assault. But this is not the place for a history of this city."

This raises the whole issue of how much store one can set by angels, and indeed, dare I say it, whether one can believe in them at all. My own views may be summed up in relation to one Geoffrey Hodson who, starting in the 1920's wrote a number of books about his encounters with angels (18a). He was entirely serious, too. Unfortunately, he was also entirely serious about his encounters with elves, gnomes, sylphs and fairies, which he detailed in another book (18b), and he had two friends, Rev.C.W.Leadbeater and Mrs Annie Besant, who were equally serious about their abilities to see the inner workings molecules and atoms by purely psychic means(18c)! Of course, these authors were mere theosophists – some would say eccentrics - not saints, so I had better tread warily. On the other hand, I am not aware of any theosophist sitting, St. Simeon Stylites like, atop a 66 foot pillar in the firm belief that it made him a better theosophist.....

Notes.

1. "Religious Medals V: Religious Medals & Amulets" in *NI Bulletin*, December 1997, p.305-307.
2. *Who is St. Joseph?* by "The Bishop of Salford" was the third in a series of "Religious Books for the People". It can also be found in the two volume compilation of such tracts, *The People's Manual*, by the Bishop under his actual name of Cardinal Herbert Vaughan.
3. Quoted in the section "St. Joseph and the Angels" in *St. Joseph* by Boniface Llamara O.P., translated by Sister Mary Elizabeth O.P. (1962), p.155-6.
4. One of numerous prefigurings of the New Testament in the Old that Biblical commentators have drummed up over the centuries. For two notable examples – Christ as the Second Adam and the Virgin Mary as the Second Eve - see "Digressions on a Theme of the Crucifixion I" in *NI Bulletin*, August 2000, p.223-4.
5. *Who is St. Joseph?*, as note 2, p.3-4. For a detailed look at the parallels, see Edward Healy Thompson, *The Life and Glories of St. Joseph* (1888; republished 1980), chapters 3 & 4 (p.14-28).

6. For the carpenter's plane, saw and hatchet as regular symbols of St. Joseph, see George Ferguson, *Signs & Symbols in Christian Art* (1961), entry "St. Joseph" (p.127); Rev. P.H.Ditchfield, *Symbolism of the Saints* (1910), p.16.
7. For which role, see the article cited in note 1, p.307-8.
8. See "St. Blaise" in *NI Bulletin*, July 1997, p.183.
9. In addition to TV coverage, various books have appeared. See, for example, Terry Law, *The Truth about Angels* (1994), whose chapter 7 (p.65-75) deals with guardian angels. See also Bob & Penny Lord, *Heavenly Army of Angels* (1991), whose chapter 3 (p.39-54) deals with guardian angels.
10. For various saintly encounters with angels, see the Lords' book cited in note 9 above, chapter 14 (p.191-245). For a nice medallic picture of St. Teresa of Avila's angelic encounter, see "Indeed a Noble Company" in *NI Bulletin*, March 2003, p.95-100 & fig.3.
11. E. Cobham Brewer, *A Dictionary of Miracles* (1897), article "Guardian Angels" (p.503-5).
12. Clemens Jöckle, *Encyclopedia of Saints* (1997), article " Vincent Ferrer" (p.451-2).
13. Rev. F.C.Husenbeth's edition of *Butler's Lives of the Saints* (1928), vol.1, p.421-8, with particular references thus: a) p.424, col.2; b) p.423, col.2; c) p.426, col.2.
14. For a brief account of the vision and St. Vincent's title "the Angel of the Judgement" see *Butler's Lives of the Saints*, ed. H. Thurston & D. Attwater (1956), vol.2, p.31-34; also the web-site essay "St. Vincent Ferrer, O.P.", by Joseph An Quoc Dang, at: <http://niwg.op.org/wogsvfrr.htm>
15. The foregoing explanation of the wings and the trumpet is, I believe, more convincing than that offered by S. Baring Gould in his *Lives of the Saints* (1897), vol.4, p.88:

"St. Vincent Ferrier is represented with wings, to symbolize the speed wherewith he hastened through Europe, or with a trumpet, to signify the loudness of his call to the impenitent..."
16. Husenbeth, as note 13, vol.3, p.180-184: a) For the Kiev episode, see p.183, col.1; b) for his relics, see p.184, col.1.
17. Jöckle, as note 12, article "Hyacinth" (p. 217).
18. a) *The Brotherhood of Angels and of Men* (1927), *The Coming of the Angels* (1935) and *The Kingdom of the Gods* (1952);
 b) *Fairies at Work and at Play* (1925);
 c) *Occult Chemistry* (1919).

Though Geoffrey Hodson died in 1983, there is a web-site devoted to his life and work. Interested readers can find it at: www.geoffreyhodson.one.net.au. Reprints of many of his books are quite readily available through the Theosophical Society.

The First Lima Pillar Coins: Actual Denominations Struck in 1751

by Carlos Jara Moreno

Recently, reviewing available documentation relating to the Santiago Mint's first years of operation (1749-1772)¹, I located two documents which present some information that is highly significant to the first Lima silver coinage of the pillars & waves type, struck in 1751.

During the years 1749-1770, the Santiago Mint was under the direction of a private citizen, Francisco García de Huidobro, who paid all the expenses necessary for the installation of the Mint in exchange for the permanent concession of the post of Treasurer of the Mint. In 1770, King Charles III of Spain took control of the Mint, paying Mr. Huidobro the corresponding indemnity.

Coins were first struck at Santiago in September of 1749 (milled gold coins of the 4 escudos denomination bearing the name and bust of Ferdinand VI). A few trial strikes of 4 and 8 Escudos (six coins) were struck later that year, with 1744-dated dies bearing the bust of Philip V. The first Santiago silver coins were struck in 1751, bearing the date 1751. Only coins of the 8 Reales denomination were struck in that year, all of which were of the pillar type². The neighboring Lima mint also began to coin machine-struck coins in 1751. However, although gold coins in the various Escudo denominations dated 1751 are well known, much controversy has arisen over which silver denominations of the pillar type were actually struck in that year: the point of this article is to clarify this issue.

In a fine article about the implementation of new machinery to strike milled-edge coins at the Lima and Potosí mints³, Glenn Murray (referring to the Lima mint) wrote the following:

"The 1746 earthquake⁴ destruction was so severe that the private owner of the mint building was unable to rebuild. He subsequently sold the ruins to the crown – which then purchased the remainder of the lots on the block, and erected the new building on the original location. In May 1749, Morales⁵ informed the king that production was being delayed because the wood for the laminating [i.e. stretching] mills had not arrived from Guayaquil, where it was being cut. Mill construction was stalled until April, 1750, when the wood finally arrived.

¹ Included in Carlos Jara's *Las Primeras Acuñaciones de la Casa de Moneda de Santiago: 1744-1772*, to be published soon.

² The Santiago mint never struck cobs.

³ Murray, Glenn, "Mechanization of the Peruvian Mints," in *The Coinage of El Perú*, COAC at the ANS, October 29-30, 1988, pp. 141-158.

⁴ In 1746, a huge earthquake struck Lima, nearly destroying the Mint (which only struck cob coinage at that time). Consequently, the implementation of the new machinery to strike machine-struck coins also required the reconstruction of the mint.

⁵ Andrés de Morales y de los Ríos, superintendent of the Lima mint at that time. He was trained at the Mexico City mint (where he collected employees, material and machinery) prior to his arrival at Lima.

By September 1750, most of the production area was completed. Work continued on the laminating mills. Three screw presses had been cast from the wooden patterns brought from Mexico. Morales predicted round coins would be struck during all of 1751, but the dies did not arrive from Spain until October 31, 1751. They came in two small boxes, holding ten dies each for gold and silver⁶. On November 20, 1751, Morales wrote that working dies were still in the process of being cut from the originals⁷, and that cob coins continued to be struck due to a lack of qualified workers for the new presses. Finally, in July 1752, Morales sent samples of Lima's first round coins to the king. He reported nearly 14,000 marcos [marks] in round gold coins and "some" marcos in round silver, struck in 1751. Apparently, all the round coins were struck in December, or some 1751-dated dies were used in early 1752."

From the above, it would seem that some silver was struck in Lima, either in December 1751 or in early 1752. Murray apparently proposed the hypothesis of the latter possibility (the use of 1751-dated dies in early 1752) due to the existence of Lima round gold coins from that year.

Let us recall that, so far, only three denominations of 1751-dated silver coins have been reported for the Lima mint, all of which are very rare: 8 Reales, 1 Real and ½ Real. I have only seen the 8 Reales⁸ and the ½ Real⁹ but feel that the source reporting the 1 Real coin is very reliable. Coins of several denominations with the 1752/1 overdate are also known¹⁰ (thereby suggesting that dies dated 1751 existed at one time for these denominations).

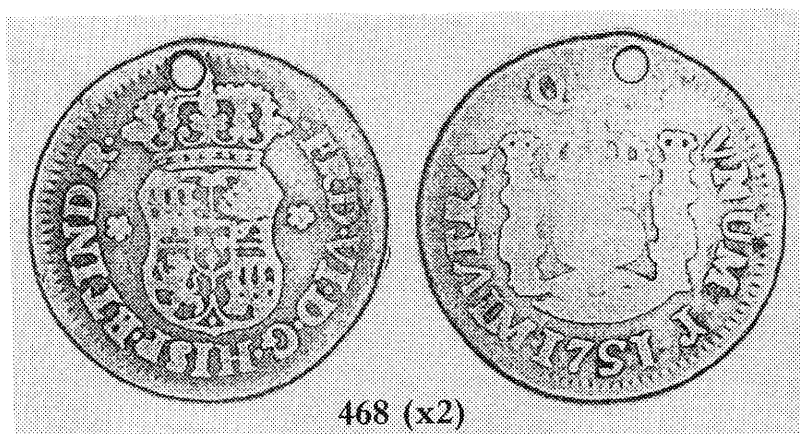


Figure 1: 1751 ½ Real, Lima mint, from the Alexander Patterson collection. (Enlarged.)

⁶ This shipment undoubtedly also contained a complete set of device punches for the manufacture of working dies and punch blocks for making new punches. The shipment of such items to their overseas colonial mints was standard practice by the Spanish crown. Vide Pradeau for the Mexico mint, Prober for the Sto. Domingo mint and Proctor for the short-lived mint in Panama.

⁷ This statement must not be interpreted literally: that is, new working dies were being cut from the punches sent with the sample dies from Spain, which were to be faithfully copied.

⁸ See Figure 3, illustrated by Gilboy, thought to be the example auctioned by Spink Taisei, Hong Kong, 1988, though Gilboy does not specifically say so.

⁹ One specimen was auctioned as lot 468 in Bonham's 1997 Patterson collection sale.

¹⁰ I know of 8 Reales, 2 Reales and ½ Real coins.

Now back to the documentation previously mentioned by us:

There is documentary evidence that, on September 11, 1751, Francisco García Huidobro sent two of the Santiago 1751 pillar 8 Reales to Lima for their inspection and comparison with the coins struck there.

Since he was responsible for the quality of the coins being struck at Santiago, and since the Santiago mint's employees had little experience (remember that this mint had only been founded in 1749), he understandably sought comparison of his first silver coins with those produced by the Lima mint.

The following is the transcription of the reply from the viceroy in Lima to García Huidobro, dated **October 15, 1751** [emphasis mine]. Accompanying the viceroy's letter of reply was a note from the superintendent of the Lima mint, Morales¹¹ with an analysis of the Santiago coins and a sample of the silver coins then recently struck in Lima (of the pillar type), which included **all denominations from the ½ Real to the 8 Reales**.

"A D. Francisco García Huidobro.

Con la carta del señor D. Francisco de 11 de Septiembre se recibieron los dos pesos de cordoncillo acuñados en esa Casa de Moneda en la primera fundición que dice haberse hecho de 750 marcos, mediante el real permiso, para que se reduzca a moneda la plata que se sacare de los minerales de ese reino. Y habiéndose cotejado con las del primer ensayo hecho en la de esta capital, a cuyo fin los despaché al señor superintendente, verá el señor D. Francisco por lo que expone en el papel que se le remite, y la suerte de monedas de a 8, 4, 2, 1 y ½, los reparos o defectos que conviene se remedien para la uniformidad en estas y esas monedas, y que no haya la menor discrepancia de unas a otras, y dar muchas gracias al señor D. Francisco por el celo con que promueve y alienta esos ánimos al trabajo y labor de las minas, que siendo ellas tan buenas como expresa, pueden ser muy útiles y de grande alivio al reino. Dios guarde al señor D. Francisco, etc. Lima, 15 de Octubre de 1751. El Conde de Superunda."

"Excmo señor.

Habiendo visto los dos pesos fabricados en la Casa de Moneda de Santiago de Chile, y examinados sus defectos, hallo que por estar el corte pequeño, no señala la gráfila o cordón del troquel que manda el Rey tenga la moneda, como asimismo los dos mundos, que están en el aire, deben sentar sobre lo que figura la tierra y el mar, y la corona es la que corresponde al medio peso por su pequeñez, como V.E. podrá cotejar con las monedas fabricadas en esta real Casa, las que si fuese del agrado de V.E., podrá mandar remitir a la de Chile para que adviertan la diferencia y legitimidad de los expresados defectos.

Real Casa de Moneda, y Octubre 6 de 1751. D. Andrés Morales y de los Rios."

¹¹ These letters, whose originals are in the *Archivo Nacional de Chile*, in the Real Audiencia section corresponding to the year 1751, were already transcribed by José Toribio Medina as *documento XVIII* in the documents appendix of his *Las Monedas Chilenas*, pp. 61-62.

In the above documents, the Count of Superunda, viceroy of Lima, states that he sent the two Santiago 8 Reales coins to superintendent Morales, in order to have them compared with *the ones resulting from the first trial strikes made at the mint of this capital* (referring to the Lima mint): *Y habiéndose cotejado con las del primer ensayo hecho en la de esta capital, a cuyo fin los despaché al señor superintendente.*

In his note to the viceroy, dated October 6, 1751, Morales states that he has examined the two coins from Santiago, and has found a number of defects in them, and that the viceroy himself can see these defects by comparing the Santiago coins with the coins struck at the Lima mint: *Habiendo visto los dos pesos fabricados en la Casa de Moneda de Santiago de Chile, y examinados sus defectos..., como V.E. podrá cotejar con las monedas fabricadas en esta real Casa* (referring to the Lima mint).

Morales then states that, should the viceroy desire it, he could send the coins in reference from the Lima mint to Santiago, so that the differences between them and the legitimacy of the mentioned defects can be fully appreciated in Santiago: *...las que si fuese del agrado de V.E., podrá mandar remitir a la de Chile para que adviertan la diferencia y legitimidad de los expresados defectos.*

As we deduce from his letter of October 11, 1751, the viceroy in Lima did indeed enclose a sample of the first Lima silver pillar coins in his reply to García Huidobro: *verá el señor D. Francisco por lo que expone en el papel que se le remite, y la suerte de monedas de a 8, 4, 2, 1 y ½, los reparos o defectos...* which translates as [Mr. García Huidobro] shall see from what is presented in the letter sent to him, and the coins of 8, 4, 2, 1 and ½ Reales, the objections or defects...

Thus, from the above two documents, we can conclude that the first silver coins of the pillar type were struck at the Lima mint prior to October 6, 1751 since they were available to superintendent Morales, who enclosed a sample of these coins (in all five denominations!) in his reply to the viceroy dated October 6th.

Let us now analyze the apparent contradiction of this evidence with the documentation presented by Glenn Murray:

The viceroy clearly states that he compared the two Santiago 8 Reales with *the ones resulting from the first trials made at the mint of this capital* (he writes “...*las del primer ensayo hecho en la de esta capital...*”). Consequently, as the first trial strikings of coins were made before October 6, 1751, the arrival of the dies from Spain must have occurred before that date, if we accept that the dies used to strike these sample coins were the ones sent from Spain: thus, the given date of October 31, 1751 for said arrival would be incorrect.

Another possibility is that, for these first trial strikes, Morales used dies fabricated with the machinery and tools he brought with him from the Mexico mint¹². In that case, he must have been able to have the monogram

¹² See footnote 5.

corresponding to the Lima mintmark engraved into the dies, as Morales clearly refers to the coins from those trial strikes as being made *at this mint* (referring to Lima). This would require an excellent engraver, and given that personnel traveled with Mr. Morales, this is possible. We must not discard it, and Murray accepts this as a possibility.¹³

Yet another possibility is that the dies received from Spain (prior to October 6, 1751) were tested upon their arrival, resulting in some sample coins, subsequently mentioned by the viceroy as *the ones from our first trial strikes*. The word *trial*, when referring to these coins suggests the former events. Silver coins were struck in 5 different denominations (8, 4, 2, 1 and ½ Reales) and, although such is not definitively proven by the viceroy's letter (which only refers to *the first trials made at the mint of this capital* and afterwards mentions the five denominations of silver coins, 1/2, 1, 2, 4 and 8 Reales), the dies for the gold coins could also have been tested on that occasion as well¹⁴.

In any case, the working dies were fabricated at Lima later, as is stated by Morales on November 20, 1751. It is these working dies that were used to strike the bulk of coins dated 1751 in Lima, probably in December, as Glenn Murray states.

It is interesting to note that the previously mentioned report from the Lima mint stated that the 8 Reales from Santiago had the following engraving mistakes, compared with their Lima counterparts:

- The crown over the two worlds on the reverse came from the punch to strike 4 Reales coins¹⁵.
- The two worlds on the reverse are in suspension (they do not touch the earth and sea).
- The border device was not fully struck due to the small diameter of the flan.

The two latter objections can be clearly seen in the following illustration of a 1751 Santiago 8 Reales (see Figure 2), but due to the low grade of this coin, one cannot make out the first point, but see footnote 15.

¹³ Personal correspondence between Glenn Murray and the author.

¹⁴ It would thus be possible to accept the fact that 1751-dated machine-struck coins were struck in all denominations from the ½ Real to the 8 Escudos at the Lima mint. All gold denominations from the 1 Escudo to the 8 Escudos are confirmed.

¹⁵ This mistake is characteristic of all Santiago pillar 8 Reales and was never corrected.

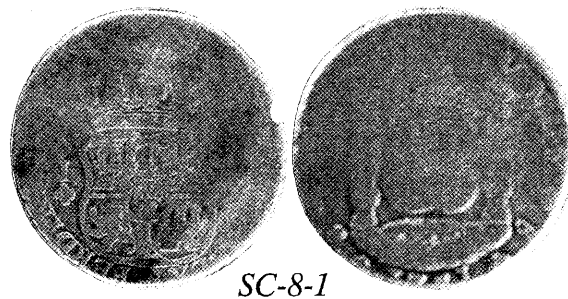


Figure 2: 1751 8 Reales from the Santiago Mint. One of only 2 known. Illustrated by Gilboy.

From the following illustration of a Lima 1751 8 Reales (see Figure 3), one can see that these mistakes were not present on the Lima pillar “duros”¹⁶:



Figure 3: 1751 8 Reales from the Lima Mint. One of only 2 known. Illustrated by Gilboy.

One can thus conclude that Morales’ analysis of the Santiago 1751 8 Reales done at the Lima mint was quite accurate.

Finally, see Figure 4 for an illustration of a 1753 Santiago 8 Reales, in which one can see that two of the three previously mentioned mistakes were corrected: the planchet has a bigger diameter, which allows the legends and part of the border device to be fully struck up, and the two worlds on the reverse are no longer in suspension, but rest atop the earth and waves as they are supposed to. The crown over the worlds remains the smaller one meant for coins of the 4 Reales denomination:

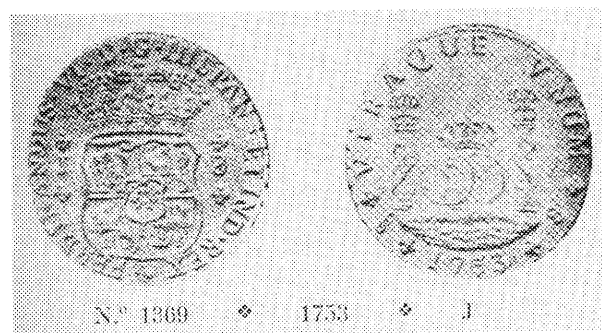


Figure 4: 1753 Santiago 8 Reales. Illustrated from Calbetó.

¹⁶ “Duro” is another name for the denomination of 8 Reales.

As we have seen, five silver denominations were struck at the Lima Mint in 1751: 8 Reales, 4 Reales, 2 Reales, 1 Real and ½ Real.

The following table summarizes all of the coins of 1751 from the Lima mint that one could possibly encounter, bearing in mind that virtually all are very rare:

Denomination	Status ¹⁷	Rarity ¹⁸
8 Escudos	C	S
4 Escudos	C	RR
2 Escudos	C	RR
1 Escudo	C	RR
½ Escudo	U ¹⁹	unknown
8 Reales	C	2 known
4 Reales	CD	unknown
2 Reales	CD	unknown
1 Real	C	1 or 2 known
½ Real	C	2 known

References:

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- Pradeau, Alberto Francisco; *Numismatic History of Mexico From the Pre-Columbian Epoch to 1823*, Los Angeles, 1938.
- Prober, Kurt; *Historia Numismática da República Dominicana*, São Paulo, 1951.
- Proctor, Jorge; *The Forgotten Mint of Colonial Panama*, a paper read before the First Central American Numismatic Congress in San José, Costa Rica, in September 2002.
- Calbetó, de Grau, Gabriel; *Compendio de las Piezas de Ocho Reales*, San Juan, 1970.

¹⁷ C = Existence Confirmed; CD = Confirmed by Documentation only; U = Unconfirmed but may have existed.

¹⁸ S = scarce; RR = very rare (perhaps 10 or fewer known).

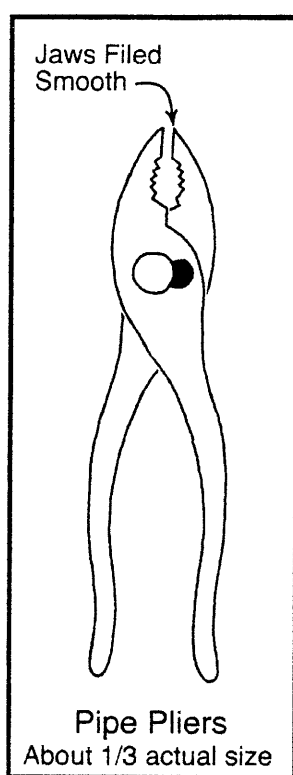
¹⁹ Note that Murray stated that ten dies (corresponding to five denominations) for gold coins had also been sent from Spain. See footnote 3 and also footnote 6.

THE ABC's OF 2X2's

Bill Mullan, Washington, D.C., NI #1040

I came to coin collecting about 40 years ago. At that time most of the dealers I encountered packaged their coins in cardboard mounts that needed to be folded over and stapled. Some coins still showed up in manila envelopes with the identification of the contents identified in a fine spencerian hand, but most of them were in 2x2's.

Over the years I have changed my mind about how to place the staples on the holders beginning with a four staple pattern; top, bottom, left, right and ending with the scheme I describe herein. When I look through the collection I can almost pin-point the time of acquisition by noting where the staples are. Maybe this paper will spare someone just beginning the coin collecting adventure the same cycle of trials.



My objection to the holders I got from dealers was that they were stapled (usually with an automatic electric stapler) with staples that were not squashed flat. The protruding staples kept the 2x2's from stacking or even resting comfortably in their storage boxes. So the first thing I did was to find a way to flatten those staples.

I tried to use a hammer but the danger of an errant blow damaging a coin was too great. So the answer had to be pliers. But what pliers? In most pliers the gripping surfaces are serrated. Such a tool is not much use for mashing staples. The first tool I found to be satisfactory was a pair of pliers from a child's tool set. It was a pair of pipe pliers, but it had flat gripping surfaces instead of the serrated surfaces found in adult tools. I lost that tool some time back and couldn't find a replacement.

So I bought the cheapest pair of pipe pliers I could find and filed the serrations off the gripping surfaces. As a matter of fact I filed them off so that the gripping faces are parallel when the space between the gripping surfaces is about equal to the thickness of the folded 2x2. The reason to buy a cheap pair is because they are made of softer steel and can be modified easier than the high grade steel in better grade tools.

The next thing that had to be solved is the stapling itself. This was the subject of some experimentation on my part and I eventually chose a hand stapler that used "TOT" staples. The reason for this choice was two-fold. First, the "TOT" staple had a knife-like bevel on the points of the staple which enhanced its ability to pierce the folded 2x2. Secondly, the "TOT" staple was small (about 9mm from point to point), not only resulting in a neater finished appearance than the larger standard staples (about 12mm), but was also small enough that the pliers could crimp both legs in one motion. Also the short legs on "TOT" staples made them stiffer. They didn't crumple quite as much as the wider ones. I found that "TOT" staples manufactured in England were apparently made of a better grade of steel than those made in China or Mexico so that also made them stiffer.

Alas the hand stapler I settled on is no longer made, and in fact the “TOT” staple is also a thing of the past. The search for a replacement has as yet no satisfactory replacement because the 2x2’s are often made from cardboard that is too tough to be pierced by most staples. Sometimes two or more staples will buckle instead of penetrating like they should. The S.F.4 Premium staple by Swingline in Mexico is marginally better than most others.

I can understand that staples are used for a great many purposes so their manufacturers don’t pay much attention to coin collector’s needs, but who else uses 2x2’s? Why are we coin collectors subjected to the indignity of having to cope with holders made of too tough cardboard? Why are they not manufactured to specifications that would make our task easier?

The third problem that must be solved is the placement of the staples. Before I get into that subject, however, I want to talk labels.

At first I printed information on the 2x2 by hand. Since my handwriting is not very good this was pretty sloppy. When I started to sell coins at school fairs I began to buy coins in quantity, so I got a stamp that uses moveable letters to expedite putting identical information on multiple holders. Better looking, but still not the best answer. What I do now is print labels on my computer using a program called “My Advanced Label Designer” by MySoftware Company. The labels are half an inch high by one and three quarters inches long and come eighty labels to a sheet. They are intended for return address labels.

The upper line of information on the label consists of the name of the country of origin and sometimes the catalog number. This line is printed in the Helvetica font, 10 point letters, all caps in **BOLD**. The second line gives the coin denomination and the year of issue. This line is printed in the Geneva font, 10 point, plain letters in both upper and lower case. The label will fit on the holder above the hole on all sizes of holders up to an including quarter size.

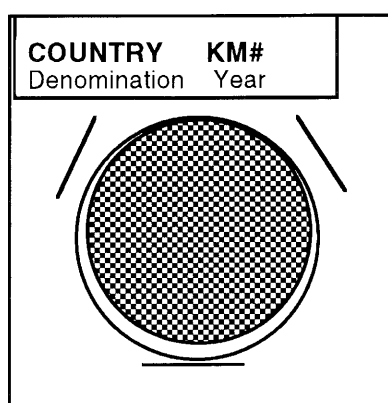
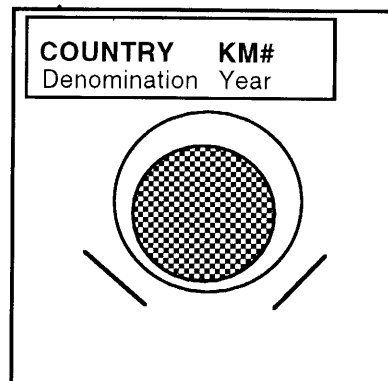
COUNTRY	KM #
Denomination	Year

Avery Return Address labels
Type # 5267 (White) or
Type # 5667 (Clear)

Since there is less room for the label on the half dollar and SBA dollar sized holders the lines of information are printed low on the label so that the printing will fit between the hole and the top of the holder. The excess part of the label can be trimmed off even with the top of the holder. This makes it possible to put labels on all sizes of holders except the dollar size. I prefer the clear labels even though they are more expensive because you can see better when positioning them on the holder. On the dollar size holders I cut the bottom line off the label and put it at the bottom of the holder and place the upper portion of the label at the top of the holder to be trimmed off as described above.

The label is not applied to the holder until it has been stapled, but the final location of the label influences the positioning of the staples, so I felt I had to discuss the label first.

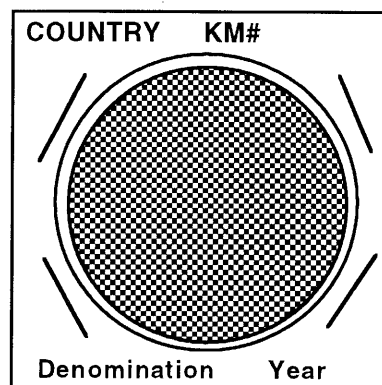
The purpose of the staples is to firmly mount the coin in the holder. When the coin is much smaller than the hole two staples placed as illustrated at right will suffice to hold the coin in place. The fold of the holder is at the top so that there is a three point containment of the coin. When the coin is almost as large as the hole there is a tendency for the staple to push the coin out of alignment with the hole. This is especially true when the coin is thick as many larger coins are. The pressure of the staples squeezes the coin out of its proper alignment with the hole.



This problem is solved by using three staples, two angled at the sides near the top of the holder and a third centered at the bottom. Since the staples will be placed before the label is applied, it is necessary to be sure that the side staples are located below the space that will later be occupied by the label.

Note that the label in the illustration at the left has been positioned so that it is above the hole. The excess will be trimmed off even with the top of the holder.

The dollar holder presents another type of problem. The portion of the holder outside the hole is so narrow that it is not stiff enough to help in containment. Thus the use of four staples. Keep in mind that part of the label will be above the hole, and another part below it. So the staples are at the sides, two at the top and two at the bottom. As noted before, the label is cut into two pieces so that the parts will fit above and below the hole as shown. Since the dollar holder requires four staples, its use is avoided whenever possible.



I am sure that each collector will eventually settle upon his or her own scheme for mounting coins in 2x2's. And perhaps some will decide that it is too much trouble and use flips or envelopes instead. The intent of this paper is to introduce the novice to some of the ramifications in the use of 2x2's and perchance speed up his or her road to a solution.

BOOK NEWS & REVIEWS

PARA 2003. *A new edition by Güvendik Fişekcioğlu. 104 pp. (including eleven pages in full color). 6½ x 9¼ inches, bound in card covers. Published by the author at: Valikonagi caddesi Şakayık, Sokak, No. 45/9 Hera Apt. Daire 2, 80200 Nişantaşı, Istanbul, Turkey. Fax: 0212 232 82 09 [\$11.00 US post paid]*

This is the twenty first issue of the author's Yayınları Series. There are important additions in all the listings in the nineteen sections familiar to regular readers of this annual.

As noticed in the last issue the section on Ottoman medals was greatly expanded due to the recently published definitive work on the subject by Metin Erüreten (reviewed in NIB vol. 37 No. 2 Feb. 2002), and their prices in U.S. dollars are noticeably high. Also the estimated prices for the Ottoman Banknotes are noticeably higher for superior specimens and are worth comparison against the entries in the current edition of the SCWPM vol. 2, 9th edition.

All the prices noted in this issue have been carefully considered and revised by the author's consultants in Turkey and new issues have been added where applicable with their serial numbers enabling the reader to note such issues quickly.

This Turkish annual is, as always, a fine supplement to the various sections on the Ottoman Empire and Turkey in the editions of Krause Publications, and is highly recommended for purchase by collectors.

Reviewed by Kenneth MacKenzie

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Paul Harris, P. O. Box 1649, Agoura Hills, CA 91376, e-mail: peso@att.net: I am studying the early cob coinage of Colonial Mexico, the 8 reales of Felipe II, and Felipe III. Please let me know what coins or photos you have for sale. I also invite you to contact me if you simply have information you would like to share. I am also seeking rare Mexican numismatic literature & auctions catalogs (e.g. Cayon). *All Dealings Strictly Confidential.*

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